

# Confirm Russ University Snub To Africans

*Discriminated Against, CIA Aide  
Says, Backing Student Stories*

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WASHINGTON—A high U.S. intelligence official has given official voice to stories of open bias against African students in the recently opened Peoples' University in Moscow.

These students have "run into discrimination," their approved research programs have been obstructed by Soviet security, and many have "become disillusioned and have said so in no uncertain terms," according to Gen. C. P. Cabell, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Cabell did not specifically mention Africa but spoke of students from "underdeveloped areas" who "don't find such Utopian conditions" once they heed the appeal of the Soviets to come to Russia for study. He spoke at a medical society meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas, Tuesday night.

Several African students have come out of Russia with grim stories of their treatment, according to other sources here, however.

They have told of beatings administered to African students for merely asking a Russian girl to dance, of being isolated by Soviet male students, of verbal abuse, of being spied upon and forced to carry passes wherever they went in Moscow.

AMONG some of the accounts available here is a vivid series of articles by a Nigerian student, Chukwemeka Okonkwo, who spent three years in the Soviet Union studying medicine. He wrote of his experiences in the Lagos Sunday Times.

Okonkwo was particularly struck by the irony of the Soviet call for socialist unity and Afro-Asian unity in the world while treating Africans and others from outside the Iron Curtain with contempt and suspicion.

He related how jazz music was considered "obnoxious" by Soviet authorities, and some African students prospered with a "black-market trade" in the records they brought to Russia with them and sold to Russian students.

"They wanted to buy our clothes from us," Okonkwo wrote.

He said that the students couldn't send a letter to a Soviet newspaper and hope to have it published.

AT FIRST, Okonkwo indi-

cated, things were all right, but then "our privileges were withdrawn," passes were issued to the African students, and they were always stopped on the streets when alone by security police.

Impromptu debates in the dormitories were suddenly called off, he continued, and the Soviet citizens were warned against fraternizing with the Africans.

When the Russian boys "withdrew into a shell," he reported, efforts to probe them for reasons produced only the knowledge that "retreat" had sounded, "the romance was over."

Okonkwo observed that girl friends are "a feature of university life all over the world." But those African students who developed an attachment to a Russian girl student had the "painful experience" of being avoided and rejected.

TWO OTHER African students emerged from the Soviet Union to tell of a Mali student who had the temerity to ask a Russian girl to dance with him and was later beaten up so badly he had to spend two weeks in a hospital.

Still another student who studied medicine for two years told of the "greatest insult" he experienced.

He was going up in an elevator with 10 Russians, and when he reached his floor, they tried to prevent him from getting off. "You are no gentleman, you are a monkey," they shouted at him.

Sources here say they have no information on how many students from Africa have left Soviet universities, including the Peoples University, and returned home. But the impact of the stories of some who did return, they judged, was discouraging others from going to Moscow.